

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9716

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/PFOR, UR, CH

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON CHINA

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA ITEMS DIRECTED AGAINST CHINA HAVE INCREASED IN BOTH VOLUME AND INTENSITY IN RECENT DAYS. TOPICS INCLUDE A DENIAL OF ALLEGED BORDER CLASHES, HUA KUO-FUNG'S APPOINTMENT AS ACTING PREMIER, AND SEVERAL ASPECTS OF CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY. THIS COVERAGE SUGGESTS THAT PEKING IS BEING BUILT UP AS MOSCOW'S MAIN FOE IN PREPARATION FOR THE FORTHCOMING SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS.

END SUMMARY

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2. PRAVDA (FEB 8) AND OTHER CENTRAL MEDIA CARRIED A TASS

STATEMENT DENYING REPORTS OF ARMED CLASHES ON THE WESTERN SINO-SOVIET BORDER. TASS ATTRIBUTED THE REPORTS TO "THE WEST," BUT ALLEGED THAT THEY DERIVED FROM PRC MEDIA REPORTS. THE TASS STATEMENT CHARGED THAT SUCH STORIES WERE INTENDED TO HEIGHTEN THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S FEAR OF THE SOVIET UNION AND TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION AWAY FROM INTERNAL TROUBLES DURING THE "STRUGGLE FOR POWER" AMONG THE LEADERS. TASS CONCLUDED THAT "THIS PEKING DUCK STINKS" (NOTE: THE RUSSIAN WORD FOR DUCK, "UTKA", ALSO MEANS "CANARD" OR "FABRICATIONS").

3. HUA KUO-FENG'S APPOINTMENT IS TREATED AS AN EXAMPLE IN SUPPORT OF THE "POWER STRUGGLE" THESIS, BUT IS CONVENIENTLY VOICED THROUGH A REPLAY OF A NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE. THE TASS REPORT, CARRIED ON THE NATIONAL TV NEWS ON FEB 8 AND IN PRAVDA AND IZVESTIAY (FEB 9), CITES THE NYT SAYING THAT HUA'S APPOINTMENT IS A SIGN OF SHARP POLITICAL STRUGGLE FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI, AND THAT THE INVITATION TO FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON SHOWS THAT PEKING IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE SLOW PACE TOWARD CLOSER SINO-U.S. TIES. (COMMENT. NEITHER THE TASS ITEM NOR OTHER SOVIET MEDIA HAVE COMMENTED DIRECTLY ON HUA'S APPOINTMENT OR ON HUA HIMSELF THUS FAR, BUT THE FAIRLY FULL REPLAY OF THE NYT ARTICLE IS TANTAMOUNT TO AN EXPRESSION OF THE LINE MOSCOW IS LEANING TOWARD. END COMMENT)

4. PRAVDA'S "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" (FEB 8) REPEATS THE DENUNCIATION OF PEKING OVER THE STORY OF THE ALLEGED BORDER INCIDENTS, AND ADDS SOME LICKS ON ANGOLA. PRAVDA CITES CUBAN AND INDIAN PRESS COMMENTS THAT CHINA'S POLICY THERE ACCORDS WITH THAT OF "IMPERIALISTS" AND IS MOTIVATED SOLELY BY ANTI-SOVIETISM, PRAVDA (FEB 7) REPORTS AN EDITORIAL IN THE CUBAN NEWSPAPER "GRANMA" CHARGING PEKING WITH SERVING THE INTERESTS OF "U.S. IMPERIALISTS" BY DENOUNCING SOVIET-CUBAN TIES WHILE NOT OBJECTING TO "24 NAVAL BASES AND MILITARY FACILITIES" WHICH THE U.S. HAS IN THE CARIBBEAN AT GUANTANAMO, PANAMA, "PUERTO RICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES." PRAVDA (FEB 8) MAKES THE SAME GENERAL POINT IN A LONG ARTICLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON CHINA'S POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA. THE ARTICLE BY V. TKACHENKO, IS CALLED "MAOISTS--ALLIES OF REACTION." IT MAKES THE FAMILIAR CHARGE ABOUT PEKING'S ALLEGED SUPPORT FOR THE CHILEAN JUNTA AND CONTINUES THAT CHINA SEEKS TO SPLIT THE "PROGRESSIVE" MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND TURN IT TO AN ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-SOVIET COURSE.

5. SOVIET TELEVISION ON FEB 3 SHOWED A HARSHLY ANTI-

CHINA "DOCUMENTARY" CALLED "BEHIND A WALL OF FEAR."
THE PROGRAM, WHICH WAS PREVIEWED A WEEK EARLIER, SHOWED
HYSTERICAL CROWD SCENES FROM THE CULTURAL
REVOLUTION, CHILDREN UNDERGOING MILITARY TRAINING,
TUNNEL DIGGING, AN ALLEGED CHINESE DEFECTOR FLEEING TO
THE SOVIETS, AND CHAIRMAN MAO POUNDING HIS FIST AT THE
NINTH PARTY CONGRESS (1969). FOR THOSE WHO MISSED THE
PROGRAM, SOVIETSKAYA INDUSTRIYA (FEB 6) CARRIED A PRECIS
OF THE MAIN POINTS.

6. IZVESTIYA (FEB 9) CARRIED A REPLAY OF AN ARTICLE IN
THE MONGOLIAN NEWSPAPER "UNEN" DENOUNCING CHINA'S LATEST
NUCLEAR TEST AN AN "EVIL-INTENTIONED ACT," WHICH RUNS
COUNTER TO THE TREND TOWARD INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND
REVEALS PEKING'S "GREAT-POWER HEGEMONISTIC" INTENTIONS AND
ITS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A NEW WORLD WAR.

7. COMMENT. WHILE SOME OF THESE ITEMS ARE RELATED TO
SPECIFIC RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, SEVERAL ARE NOT. THEY
THEREFORE LOOK LIKE THE BEGINNING OF A CAMPAIGN TO

PAINT PEKING AS THE SOVIET UNION'S PRINCIPLE FOE ON THE
WORLD STAGE AS PART OF MOSCOW'S BUILD-UP TOWARD THE 25TH
CPSU CONGRESS LATER THIS MONTH.

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